6-12, 1997. The visit was part of an ongoing process of military exchanges in the framework of confidence building measures jointly agreed upon. Such visits are aimed at improving mutual understanding.

MBBS EXAMS

2413. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "1991 batch yet to take first MBBS exam in Salem college" appearing in the Indian Express of July 6, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the first batch of MBBS students of the Vinayage Mission's Kirupananda Variyar Medical College, Salem are still waiting to write their first year examination whereas the students admitted to the course have completed their MBBS course; and

(c) if so, the circumstances which arose such a situation and the decision or steps being taken by the Government to help this batch to complete the course?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An application was received under the provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 from the Secretary, Thirumuruga Kirupananda Variyar Thavathiru Sundara Swamigal Medical Educational and Charitable trust, Salem on 13.9.1995 for establishment of a new medical college in the name of Vinayaka Missions's Kirupananda Variyar Medical College at Salem. The Government, on the recommendations of the Medical Council of India, accorded permission for the establishment of above college on 4.3.1996 from the academic year 1995-96.

[Translation]

Production of Spurious Medicines

2414 SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR :
SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale production of spurious medicines in the country causing several deaths;

(b) if so, the details of the companies engaged in the production of such spurious medicines for the last three years, and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the reports available from the State Licensing Authorities during the period 1994 to 1997, one case of suspected death was reported in Kerala in the year 1994 due to administration of spurious Injection Atropine Sulphate manufactured by M/S G.K. Pharmaceuticals, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Two cases of suspected death were reported on September 12, 1996 in Village Peresanda, District Kolar in Karnataka following administration of different bataches of adulterated Comsat Forte Tablets (antidiabetic) manufactured by M/S Boarhinger Mannheim (India) Limited, Thane, Maharashtra.

(c) The State Licensing Authorities of Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra launched prosecution against the said companies in the court of Law as per the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder. The matter are subjudice.

Use of Indian Languages in Examinations of UPSC

2415. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

a) whether an expert Committee has been constituted to examine the issue of reply to be given in Indian languages in the examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission;

b) if so, when the above Committee was constituted and the composition of the Committee; and

c) the details of the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) An Expert Committee earlier constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Satish Chandra, ex-Chairman, UGC to review the scheme of the Civil Service Examination was also asked on May 22, 1989, to examine *inter-alia* the issue relating to introduction of the Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as medium of examinations. The Expert Committee comprised the following :

Dr. Satish Chandra	Chairman
Shri T.R. Satish Chandran	Member
Shri S.N. Mathur	Member
Dr. K. Venkata Ramiah	Member

Dr. Francis A. Menezes	Member
Shri C.S. Swaminathan	Member
Shri D.P. Bagchi	Member
Shri D. Basu	Member-Secretary

c) The Committee made recommendations relating to introduction of various Indian languages as medium of examinations conducted by the UPSC.

[English]

Child Labour

2416. SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.S. Government have asked the Indian Government to implement the code of conduct in respect of child labour in the country to avoid exploitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MNISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (b) No, Sir. The US Government have not asked the Government to emplement any Code of Conduct in respect of child labour in the country. However, many US companies (manufacturers and retailers) have voluntarily developed code of conduct, requiring factories and suppliers with which they do business - in the US and abroad - to meet certain legal and ethical standards, which include provisions prohibiting the use of child labour.

(c) Does not arise.

Indo-Russian Relations

2417. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of Russia's accession to G-7 group of Western powers, Russia-NATO accord, Moscow's admittance into the "Paris-Club" and Russia's strategic partnership with China; and

(b) if so, the impact thereof on India's policy frame in different areas, of bilateral and multi-lateral relation among these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These developments have not affected the nature or quality of India's traditionally close ties with Russia. Indo-Russian relations remain warm and friendly, based on continuity, trust and mutual understanding.

HUDCO

2418. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the HUDCO has earmarked funds to be invested on various infrastructure sectors during the next five years in the country;

(b) if so, whether HUDCO has approached international lending agencies to raise loan of Rs. 3,000 crores during 1997-98 as a part of its resource mobilisation strategy;

(c) whether any concrete action has been prepared by HUDCO for investment of funds; and

(d) if so, the details of the projects which are likely to be financed from this fund State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) During 9th Plan period, HUDCO proposes to sanction loans of the order of Rs. 5871.00 crores for urban infrastructure projects in the country.

(b): As part of its resources mobilisation strategy for financing housing and urban infrastructure schemes during 9th Plan. HUDCO is exploring the possibilities of getting external assistance to the tune of Rs. 3,000 crores, out of a total resource mobilisation plan of Rs. 13315 crores.

(c) and (d) HUDCO sanctions projects received from various implementing agencies on the basis of technical and financial viability. No prior allocation of funds is made State-wise for urban infrastructure schemes. The types of urban infrastructure schemes funded by HUDCO include upgradation and augmentation of urban services like water supply, sanitation, sewerage and sewage disposal, drainages, roads and bridges, solid waste management, health care and community amenities, remunerative projects like, markets, office complex, bus stands, truck terminals, industrial and business infrastructure etc. The financing pattern for the urban infrastructure schemes is given in the attached Statement.